

PRESS DEPARTMENT OF STATE



August 25, 1975

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PRESS CONFERENCE BY
HIS EXCELLENCY ANWAR AL-SADAT
PRESIDENT OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
AND
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE
PRIOR TO DEPARTURE
ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT

AUGUST 25, 1975



QUESTION: Mr. President, are we closer to an agreement this afternoon than we were before?

PRESIDENT SADAT: We are working together with Dr. Kissinger. There have been as I told you in the morning, there have been some points to discuss, and we shall continue discussing them now before he leaves.

QUESTION: Did you say there is still a gap, Dr. Kissinger?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Until the agreement is finally signed, by definition there is a gap. My assessment is that the President and his associates, and my associates and I this morning, and then the Foreign Minister, the Minister of Defense and I and my associates this afternoon did good work and made progress towards removing some of the difficulties.

QUESTION: Have you determined the exact troop lines now in the Sinai Desert where the Egyptian advancement will be?

PRESIDENT SADAT: If it is determined why should Dr. Kissinger return again?

QUESTION: Surely there are other points to resolve as well.

PRESIDENT SADAT: Not yet.

QUESTION: Has anything unexpected come up, Mr. Secretary?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: No, I don't find up to now any unexpected difficulties and I am satisfied with the talks we had here today.

QUESTION: How much longer do you think it will take, Mr. Secretary?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I don't want to speculate. We will move as fast as we can.

QUESTION: But do you feel that you will be able to complete it before your due date in New York?

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SECRETARY KISSINGER: I would like to. The possibilities still exist.

QUESTION: Were you going over the text of agreements or just talking in general principle, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT SADAT: I thought you were asking the Secretary. (Laughter)

QUESTION: Are we down to wording of texts?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Not quite that precisely yet. But we are beginning to work on more concrete terms and principles.

QUESTION: Mr. President, have you seen a draft of the proposed agreement yet?

PRESIDENT SADAT: (Laughter) Not yet. Perhaps you have seen me reading some papers today. You thought that this is the agreement. No, it is a message.

QUESTION: Have you made some calls, sir?

PRESIDENT SADAT: No.

QUESTION: [Inaudible]

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I left a number of assistants in Israel today to discuss some bilateral issues.

QUESTION: Did you do the same here in Alexandria, too?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, our Ambassador here, of course, is in daily contact with your Foreign Minister and when it becomes necessary I will leave some people here.

QUESTION: Do you still expect to come back tomorrow, Mr. Secretary?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I hope to come back tomorrow afternoon or at the latest Wednesday morning.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, you said when you first arrived, that there were matters of substance and procedures still remaining. Is that still your assessment?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: When I arrived in the area several matters of substance have been... very good progress has been made in respect to them and I think that they are [inaudible] in the area.

QUESTION: Will you still be visiting Saudi Arabia and Jordan?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Yes, definitely but my primary responsibility now is to see that I speed up the conclusion of this agreement. And I will fit in those visits and I am sure that the host countries will understand that.

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QUESTION: With regards to paragraphing of the agreement before you return to New York, has it been decided which country will paragraph it first?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: (Laughter) I don't think so.

QUESTION: Is it one of the outstanding issues?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I think that is one of the most soluble issues.

QUESTION: Is there a possibility that you postpone your departure to New York?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: No, if necessary I will go to New York, deliver the speech and return to this area. We have placed great stress on that special session, and I have done a lot of work on preparing a program. So, in any event, I will present it and then come back here, if that proves to be necessary.

QUESTION: Mr. President, do you think the agreement will be acceptable in the rest of the Arab world?

PRESIDENT SADAT: Well, why not wait until we reach this agreement. I shall be putting it before my people and before the whole Arab world, if we reach it.

QUESTION: Mr. President, will there be a substantial increase in American aid to Egypt?

PRESIDENT SADAT: We haven't discussed this yet. Not yet.

QUESTION: Would you like a substantial increase in American aid?

PRESIDENT SADAT: Sure I would like it.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, what is in the envelope? (General Laughter)

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I don't know yet, I have not looked yet.

QUESTION: Thank you.

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